

Message Text

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ACTION AF-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 RSC-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-05 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01

AID-05 /064 W

----- 060895

R 021722Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY LOME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8575

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L L O M E 2 7 7 8

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, EFIN, TO

SUBJ: EYADEMA ANNOUNCES SUPER BUDGET AT PARTY ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION

SUMMARY: CELEBRATIONS IN LOME NOVEMBER 29-30 MARKED FIFTH ANNI-
VERSARY FOUNDING TOGO'S SOLE POLITICAL PARTY. PRESIDENT EYADEMA
ANNOUNCED 1975 BUDGET ENLARGED BY ALMOST 88 PERCENT TO DOLS 131.5
MILLION. GLORIFICATION OF EYADEMA AS TOGO'S MESSIAH, IMMORTAL
AND INCORRUPTIBLE, WAS AMPLIFIED. END SUMMARY.

1. FIFTY THOUSAND TOGOLESE TURNED OUT IN LOME STADIUM NOVEMBER
30 FOR MAIN PUBLIC EVENT IN TWO-DAY CELEBRATION OF FOUNDING
RASSEMBLEMENT DU PEUPLE TOGOLAIS (RPT), TOGO'S ONLY POLITICAL
PARTY. PRESIDENT EYADEMA WAS EXTOLLED FOR HIS VISION IN RECONCILING
TOGOLESE PEOPLE AND HIS COURAGE IN CONFRONTING "IMPERIALISTS
AND THEIR LACKEYS."

2. EYADEMA, WHO FOLLOWED SIX OTHER SPEAKERS, ANNOUNCED BUDGET
FOR 1975 ENLARGED BY 87.84 PERCENT TO 30.5 BILLION, OR
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DOLS 131.5 MILLION. HE PROMISED WATER AND ELECTRICITY FOR ALL

OF TOGO'S TWENTY CIRCONSCRIPTIONS (ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICTS)
BY END 1976.

3. PRESIDENT EMPHASIZED IMPORTANCE OF NEW BUDGET FOR EDUCATION, INDUSTRY, RURAL DEVELOPMENT (INCLUDING GOVERNMENT SUBSIDY TO FARMERS FOR FERTILIZER), PUBLIC HEALTH, YOUTH AND SPORTS. HE DID NOT RPT NOT CALL ATTENTION TO FACT THESE SECTORS TO RECEIVE ONLY ONE-THIRD OF TOTAL BUDGET. MOREOVER, HE DID NOT MENTION DEFENSE EXPENDITURES.

4. SPEAKERS PRECEDING EYADEMA INCLUDED MINISTER INFORMATION AND RPT ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY EKLO; SECRETARY GENERAL BARNABO OF NATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF TOGOLESE WORKERS; PRESIDENT JONDOH OF NATIONAL UNION OF TOGOLESE WOMEN; AND CHIEF KALIPE OF SOUTHERN CIRCUMSCRIPTION OF VOGAN WHO IS PRESIDENT OF NATIONAL UNION OF TRADITIONAL CHIEF OF TOGO. PRINCIPAL THEMES WERE: 1) PROVIDENTIAL ADVENT OF EYADEMA TO UNITE TOGOLESE PEOPLE AT TIME OF POLITICAL DISSENSION; AND 2) PRESIDENT'S MIRACULOUS SURVIVAL OF JANUARY 24 AIR CRASH AT SAKAKAWA (BLAMED AGAIN AND AGAIN ON "IMPERIALISTS" - BY IMPLICATION, ENEMIES OF TOGO). SEVERAL SPEAKERS ALLUDED TO TOGOLESE GODS WHO HAVE FAVORED EYADEMA.

5. UNREST BROKE OUT IN SEVERAL PARTS OF STADIUM AND PERSISTED THROUGHOUT SPEECHES, INCLUDING PRESIDENT'S. IT WAS DIFFICULT TO DETERMINE WHAT CAUSED OUTBREAKS, WHICH SEEMED UNRELATED TO PERSONALITIES AND RHETORIC IN OFFICIAL TRIBUNE. BUT PUBLIC ADDRESS SYSTEM WAS BAD, TOO, AND THOSE SEATED IN TRIBUNE HAD DIFFICULTY HEARING - EVEN "ANIMATION," USUALLY DEAFENING, WAS LOST IN TOGO'S AIRSPACE. EYADEMA SEEMED ANNOYED THROUGHOUT, AND ARMY OFFICERS AND POLICE WERE DESPATCHED PERIODICALLY FROM HIS BOX TO AREAS WHERE SPECTATORS WERE UNRULY. FONMIN HUNLEDE WAS LAST MESSENGER TO GO FORWARD. AFTER FEW WORDS WITH MINISTER EKLO, LATTER TERMINATED ANIMATION AND PRESIDENT DEPARTED. PROCEEDINGS LASTED ABOUT THREE HOURS.

6, FINALLY, IN SPEECH FOLLOWING PARADE SATURDAY, CHEFCIR OF LOME AND PARTY FUNCTIONARY SAMON KORTHIO, CHARGED WITH PRESS AND "PRO-PAGANDA," PRAISED YOUNG BUT VIBRANT RPT BY QUOTING (WITHOUT IDENTIFYING THEM) CORNEILLE'S BEUTIFUL LINES FORM "LE CID:
"(JE SUIS JEUNE, IL EST VRAI, MAIS)" " AUX AMES BIEN NEES,
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LA VALEUR N'ATTEND POINT LE NOMBRE DES ANNEES."

7. COMMENT: EMBASSY HAS NOT YET SEEN BUDGET, BUT UNDERSTANDS FROM EYADEMA'S ADDRESS THAT SOME PHOSPHATE SALES PROFITS AT LEAST ARE BEING INTRODUCED INTO PUBLIC FUNDS ACCOUNTING. SEPARATE ANALYTICAL MESSAGE ON BUDGET WILL FOLLOW BY AIRGRAM. IN THIS CONNECTION, WE NOTE NEW DESCRIPTION IN STADIUM SPEECHES OF EYADEMA AS "INCORRUPTIBLE." TERM MAY BE INTENDED TO ALLAY

UNDERCURRENT OF CRITICISM OF UNRECORDED PAYMENTS FOR POLITICAL
PURPOSES TAKEN OUT OF PHOSPHATE PROFITS, WHICH HERETOFORE
HAVE NOT BEEN ENTERED INTO NATIONAL ACCOUNTS. SEPTEL WILL
REPORT THAT CASH COMPENSATION FOR NATIONALIZED CTMB IS NOW COMPLETED.
GOT CONTINUES TO USE CRUTCH OF ANTI-IMPERIALISM (WHATEVER IMPERIALISM
MEANS TODAY) TO MOBILIZE POPULAR SENTIMENT FOR TOGOLESE
"REVOLUTION" TO RID ITSELF OF COLONIAL INFLUENCES. AS FOR WATER
AND ELECTRICITY IN CIRCUMSCRIPTIONS, EMBASSY IS REMINDED OF
ITS FRUSTRATION IN TRYING TO INDUCE TOGOLESE AUTHORITIES EVEN
TO SUPPLY WATER AND POWER TO SIX MUNICIPAL LATRINES ALREADY
BUILT AS JOINT PEACE/CORPS SELF-HELP FUND PROJECT ON STRENGTH
OF LOME CITY'S COMMITMENT SIX MONTHS AGO.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT BUDGET, SPEECHES, INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 DEC 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: izenbei0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974LOME02778
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740350-0018
From: LOME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741268/aaaacggj.tel
Line Count: 128
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: izenbei0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 APR 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <18 MAR 2003 by izenbei0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EYADEMA ANNOUNCES SUPER BUDGET AT PARTY ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
TAGS: PINT, EFIN, PGOV, TO, (EYADEMA, ETIENNE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005